

## Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05 EB-07 INT-05 DODE-00

L-02 DLOS-05 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 DOTE-00 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

H-02 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01

PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10

EA-10 NEA-09 /180 W

----- 074504

R 181259Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 762

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

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STATE FOR OFA/OES

USDOC FOR D. WALLACE IN NOAA AND FOR R. SCHONING AND

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C. BLONDIN IN NMFS; GENEVA FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, PLOS, PORC

SUBJECT: THE SAD STATE OF THE NORTH SEA HERRING STOCKS.

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 3229, 12/19/73; B. COPENHAGEN 740,  
3/18/74; C. COPENHAGEN 1340, 6/5/74; AND COPENHAGEN 970.

1. 1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NORTH SEA HERRING STOCKS HAVE DECLINED TO A VERY LOW LEVEL. SCIENTISTS HAVE REVISED THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE KEY 1972 YEAR CLASS FROM NEAR NORMAL TO VERY POOR. INSTEAD OF THE 488,000 METRIC TONS PERMITTED UNDER THE TAC FOR THE 1974/74 SEASON, THE TOTAL HARVEST OF NORTH SEA HERRING DURING THE PERIOD IS ONLY EXPECTED TO BE AROUND 290,000 TONS. DANISH FISHING WAS STOPPED WITH ONLY 90,000 TONS TAKEN OUT OF THE 167,000 TONS OF HERRING ALLOCATED. SCIENTISTS ARE REPORTEDLY READY TO PROPOSE A 1975/76 TAC OF 150,000 TONS. REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF HERRING FROM EUROPEAN AREAS WILL MAKE EUROPEAN NATIONS MORE RELEUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE NECESSARY CONSERVATION MEASURES NEEDED FOR THE HERRING STOCKS OFF THE AMERICAN COAST. GIVEN THE SORRY CONSERVATION RECORD ON EUROPEAN HERRING STOCKS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INSIST UPON STRONGEST HERRING CONSERVATION MEASURES IN ICNAF AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE DECEMBER 1973 MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC), A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP WHICH HAD MET EARLIER IN OCTOBER THAT YEAR REPORTED THAT THERE WERE THREE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN THE NORTH SEA (INCLUDES SKAGERRAK) HERRING FISHERY: THE FISHERY'S DEPENDENCE UPON THE YOUNGEST AGE CLASSES, THE ASSESSMENT BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE THAT A FEW POOR YEAR CLASSES IN A ROW WOULD EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATE THE NORTH SEA ADULT HERRING FISHERIES, AND THE ADVICE BY THE COMMITTEE THAT REGULATIONS WERE NEEDED TO INCREASE THE BIOMASS OF ADULT HERRING STOCKS BY AT LEAST 100 PERCENT IN FOUR YEARS. TO ACHIEVE THIS MINIMUM NEED, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE OCTOBER 1973 WORKING GROUP SUGGESTED A TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) RANGING FROM 310,000 TO 390,000 METRIC TONS - THE RANGE DEPENDED UPON THE RATION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE HERRING WHICH WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER THE TAC ARRANGEMENT. FOR A 200 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE ADULT POPULATION OF HERRING, THE 1974 TAC RANGE WOULD HAVE TO BE FROM 210,000 TO 240,000 TONS. REF. A. REVIEWS THE FAILURE OF THE DECEMBER 1973

MEETING TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT.

3. THE NEAFC MET AGAIN IN MARCH 1974 TO PURSUE AGREEMENT ON THE HERRING STOCKS. REF B. SHOWS THE DIFFICULT BARGAINING WHICH LED TO A COMPROMISE BY MEMBER STATES BUT ONLY AT THE SACRIFICE OF CONSERVATION. A DRAFT PROPOSAL WAS DEVELOPED WHICH RAISED THE TAC TO 488,000 METRIC TONS, WITH A POTENTIAL UPPER LIMIT OF 540,000 TONS, FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975.

4. AT THE NEAFC ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE 1974, THE 488,000 TON TAC BECAME A REALITY (REF C).

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USMISSION OECD PARIS  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

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5. THE NORTH SEA HERRING STOCKS ARE PRESENTLY IN  
A PERILOUS STATE ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC  
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ASSESSMENT OF THE STOCKS AND TO THE ACTUAL FISHING  
EXPERIENCE DURING THE PAST YEAR. SCIENTISTS HAD  
EARLIER ESTMIATED STOCK SIZES BASED ON INDICATIONS  
THAT THE 1972 YEAR CLASS OF HERRING WAS NEARLYNORMAL.  
FROM THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION, THE 1972 YEAR  
CLASS IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE VERY MUCH BELOW NORMAL.

6. THE TOTAL CATCH OF HERRING BY ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR  
THE 1974/75 SEASON IS EXPECTED TO BE AROUND 290,000  
TONS COMPARED WITH THE TAC FIGURE OF 488,000 TONS.  
DANISH FISHERMEN, WHO HAD BEEN ALLOCATED 167,000  
TONS OUT OF THE TAC, HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ABOUT  
90,000 TONS. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT CALLED A HALT  
TO THE DANISH FISHING FOR HERRING AT THE BEGINNING  
OF THIS MONTH EVEN THOUGH THREE MONTHS REMAIN IN THE  
QUOTA YEAR (REF D). FISHERMEN REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN  
HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ENOUGH FISH TO  
ACHIEVE THEIR ALLOCATION. BY THE MEEK WAY IN WHICH  
THE USUALLY OBSTREPEROUS FISHERMEN ACCEPTED THE  
FISHING HALT, THEY MUST BE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE  
PERILOUS STATE OF THE STOCKS AND TO ACCEPT THE  
FINDINGS OF THE SCIENTISTS.

7. AT THE MAY 21-27, 1975 NEAFC ANNUAL MEETING, IT  
IS REPORTED THAT THE SCIENTISTS WILL PROPOSE A TAC  
FOR NORTH SEA HERRING OF AROUND 150,000 METRIC TONS,  
LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF THIS SEASON'S TAC. IT IS  
ALSO QUITE POSSIBLE THAT EVEN THE SMALL IRISH SEA  
HERRING TAC WILL BE REDUCED. AND IT IS MOST UNLIKELY  
THAT THE HERRING WEST OF SCOTLAND TAC WILL BE RAISED.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS,  
THE QUANTITY OF HERRING WHICH WILL BE HARVESTED FROM  
EUROPEAN WATERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE SHARPLY REDUCED.  
EUROPEAN FISHERMEN WHO TAKE HERRING IN THE ICNAF AREAS

OFF THE AMERICAN COAST WILL BE EVEN MORE RELUCTANT  
TO REDUCE THEIR HEAVY EXPLOITATION OF THE STOCKS IN  
THAT AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT, GIVEN THE SORRY  
EXPERIENCE WITH THE ATLANTO-SCANDIA HERRING STOCKS  
AND NOW WITH THE NORTH SEA HERRING, THE UNITED  
STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD INSIST UPON AN EVEN STRONGER  
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CONSERVATION POSITION TO PROTECT THE HERRING STOCKS  
IN THE ICNAF AREA. WE SUGGEST THAT THE US GOVERN-  
MENT INSIST UPON MEASURES, INCLUDING SHARP REDUCTION  
IN FOREIGN FISHING OF HERRING IF NECESSARY, WHICH  
WILL PROVIDE FOR A MARGIN FOR ERROR ON THE LOW,  
SAFE SIDE, RATHER THAN ON THE HIGH, DANGEROUS SIDE.  
CROWE

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## Message Attributes

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